<u>**Amendments to the Claims:**</u>

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

<u>**Listing of Claims:**</u>

1-88. (Canceled).

89. (Currently amended) A method to control overtime in an electronic auction, comprising:

(a)   defining a first time interval corresponding to at least a portion of time during which bids are submitted to the auction for a first lot defined at least in part by a buyer, a second time interval, a first overtime condition and a first closing time for the first lot, wherein the first closing time is at least initially defined as a specific scheduled closing time;

(b)   determining whether <u>at least one behind market bid for the first lot is received by</u> <u>a server associated with a sponsor of the auction</u> the first overtime condition occurs during the first time interval, <u>the at least one behind market bid being greater than a market leading bid,</u> wherein the first overtime condition comprises receiving at least one behind market bid for the first lot; and

(c)   extending the first closing time using the second time interval in accordance with the determination <u>made in step (b), wherein the extending step is performed using the server;</u>

wherein a<u>the</u> sponsor <u>server</u>of the auction and at least one bidder participating in the auction are coupled electronically over a communication network during the auction, the bids are submitted in step (a) by the at least one bidder to the sponsor<u>server</u> over the network, and the at least one behind market bid in step (b) is transmitted to the sponsor<u>server</u> over the network; and

wherein the first closing time corresponds to an end of the first time interval if the first closing time is not extended in step (c), and the first closing time corresponds to an end of the second time interval if the first time interval is extended in step (c).

90-91. (Canceled).

92. (Previously presented) The method of claim 89, wherein the second time interval varies during the auction.

93. (Previously presented) The method of claim 89, wherein the second time interval is determined in accordance with an overtime extension parameter that is specific to the first lot.

94. (Canceled).

95. (Previously presented) The method of claim 89, wherein an overtime extension is triggered if an amount of the at least one behind market bid is within a predetermined amount of another bid for the first lot.

96. (Previously presented) The method of claim 89, wherein an overtime extension is triggered if the at least one behind market bid is within a predetermined rank of another bid for the first lot.

97. (Previously presented) The method of claim 89, wherein an overtime extension is triggered if the at least one behind market bid is within a predetermined percentage of another bid for the first lot.

98. (Previously presented) The method of claim 89, wherein an overtime extension is triggered if the at least one behind market bid is received from an incumbent supplier.

99. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium for controlling overtime in an electronic auction, the medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the following steps:

(a)   defining a first time interval corresponding to at least a portion of time during which bids are submitted to the auction for a first lot defined at least in part by a buyer, a second time interval, a first overtime condition and a first closing time for the first lot, wherein the first closing time is at least initially defined as a specific scheduled closing time;

(b)   determining whether at least one behind market bid for the first lot is received the first overtime condition occurs during the first time interval, the at least one behind market bid being greater than a market leading bid, wherein the first overtime condition comprises receiving at least one behind market bid for the first lot; and

(c)   extending the first closing time using said second time interval in accordance with the determination made in step (b);

wherein a sponsor of the auction and each bidder participating in the auction are coupled electronically over a communication network during the auction, the bids are submitted in step

(a) by the at least one bidder to the sponsor over the network, and the at least one behind market

bid in step (b) is transmitted to the sponsor over the network;

wherein the first closing time corresponds to an end of the first time interval if the first

closing time is not extended in step (c), and the first closing time corresponds to an end of the

second time interval if the first time interval is extended in step (c).

100-101 (Canceled).

102. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 99, wherein the second

time interval varies during the auction.

103. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 99, wherein the second time

interval is determined in accordance with an overtime extension parameter that is specific to the first lot.

104. (Canceled).

105. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 99, wherein an overtime

extension is triggered if the at least one behind market bid is within a predetermined amount of

another bid for the first lot.

106. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 99, wherein an overtime extension is triggered if the at least one behind market bid is within a predetermined rank of another bid for the first lot.

107. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 99, wherein an overtime extension is triggered if the at least one behind market bid is within a predetermined percentage of another bid for the first lot.

108. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 99, wherein an overtime extension is triggered if the at least one behind market bid is received from an incumbent supplier.

109-137. (Canceled).

138. (Currently amended) A method to control overtime in an electronic auction, comprising:

(a) defining a first time interval, a second time interval, a first overtime condition and a first closing time for a lot defined at least in part by a buyer, wherein the first closing time is at least initially defined as a specific scheduled closing time;

(b) determining whether at least one behind market bid for the first lot is received by a server associated with a sponsor of the auction the first overtime condition occurs during the first time interval, the at least one behind market bid being greater than a market leading bid, wherein the first overtime condition comprises receiving at least one behind market bid for the first lot; and

(c) extending the first closing time using the second time interval in accordance with the determination made in step (b), wherein the extending step is performed using the server.

139. (Previously presented) The method of claim 138, wherein the second time interval varies during the auction.

140. (Previously presented) The method of claim 138, wherein an overtime extension is triggered if an amount of the at least one behind market bid is within at least one of a predetermined amount, a predetermined rank, and a predetermined percentage of another bid for the lot.

141-143 (Canceled).

144. (Previously presented) The method of claim 138, wherein the first time interval comprises an overtime trigger interval before the first closing time.

145. (Previously presented) The method of claim 138, wherein the second time interval comprises an overtime extension interval that extends the first closing time.

146. (Previously presented) The method of claim 138, wherein the second time interval extends to a second closing time, further comprising:

defining a third time interval, a fourth time interval, and a second overtime condition for

the lot, the third time interval not being equal to the fourth time interval;

determining whether the second overtime condition occurs during the third time interval;

and

extending the second closing time by the fourth time interval in accordance with the

second determination.

147-150. (Canceled)

151. (Currently amended) A machine-readable medium for controlling overtime in an electronic

auction, the medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the

processor to:

define an overtime triggering interval, an extension time interval, ~~an overtime condition~~

and a closing time for a lot defined at least in part by a buyer, wherein the first closing time is at

least initially defined as a specific scheduled closing time;

determine whether <u>at least one behind market bid for the first lot is received</u> ~~the overtime~~

~~condition occurs~~ during the overtime triggering interval<u>, the at least one behind market bid being</u>

<u>greater than a market leading bid</u>~~, wherein the first overtime condition comprises receiving at~~

~~least one behind market bid~~; and

extending the closing time using the extension time interval in accordance with the

determination.

152. (Canceled).

153. (Previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 151, wherein the overtime condition occurs when an amount of the at least one behind market bid is within at least one of a predetermined amount, a predetermined rank, and a predetermined percentage of another bid for the lot.

154. (Previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 151, wherein the overtime condition occurs if the at least one behind market bid is submitted by an incumbent supplier.

155-162 (Canceled).